Development of integrated inland navigation sector

2514. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government propose to develop integrated inland navigation sector so as to make it a modern inland transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project is proposed to be funded by the Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Centre also propose to encourage such projects in other coastal regions such as Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, etc.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) No proposal for integrated inland navigation sector has been received from the State Government of Kerala under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no such proposal.

Termination of contracts by NHAI

2515. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has terminated the contracts of certain companies on account of non-performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicting those that were cancelled in Orissa State; and

(c) the action plan of Government to speed up completion of left-out stretches in Orissa to control road accidents and improve the economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Four contracts have been terminated by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on account of non-performance of the contractors out of which one contract pertaining to four laning of Ganjam-Icchapuram section of NH-5 was terminated on 14.01.2004 due to non-performance of the contractor M/s Bumihiway DDBL (JV). The contract for balance of work on the section has already been awarded.

(c) The steps taken by the NHAI to expedite the projects are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken for early completion of the projects

(a) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport and Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/ pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified. Earlier all the notifications under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

(e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(f) Action has been taken against non performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Provision under Motor Vehicles Act

†2516. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Motor Vehicles Act there is a provision that the accused should be informed to deposit the fine as well as confession of offence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no need of trial in case of confession by the offender and depositing the fine, if so, the number of courts not using these provisions and as a result an increase in pendancy of cases; and

(c) the system proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 provides for penalties for a number of offences concerning violations of various provisions of the Act. Implementation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is the responsibility of the concerned State Government through their own enforcement agencies and in the manner prescribed by them.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi